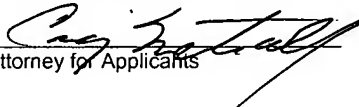




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 18, 2003.

  
Attorney for Applicants

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/658,681  
Applicants : Travis Hess et al.  
Filed : September 9, 2003  
Title : ENERGY ABSORPTION BRACKET  
  
TC/A.U. : 3612  
Examiner : (not yet assigned)  
  
Docket No. : 14262

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement disclosing information which has come to the attention of applicants and/or their attorneys and is being submitted so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the enclosed Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application or before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits.

Neither applicants nor their attorneys make any representation that any information disclosed herein may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. Moreover, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the

information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, transmitted herewith are:

1. A completed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" listing the patents, publications and other information being submitted for consideration; and
2. A legible copy of each patent, publication and other item of information in written form listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A, except for copies of U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications which are not required for applications filed after June 30, 2003.

As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A are not required and, therefore, not included herewith.

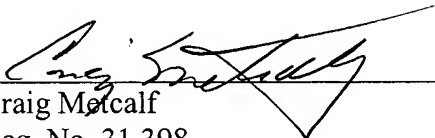
#### NON-ENGLISH INFORMATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, following is a concise explanation of the relevance (as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information), of each listed patent, publication or other information that is not in the English language:

1. Japanese Patent Application No. JP 11 123993 published May 11, 1999 discloses: An energy absorbent element 14 formed to be substantially U-shaped in cross section is coupled to a holding rail 16 formed to be deformed at least partially on the side directed to the body pillar 2. The holding rail 16 is abutted to the body pillar 2 to be partially shape-coupled, and locally immovably coupled to the body pillar. By this arrangement, even if a disadvantageous load direction is caused at the time of head collision shock, effective energy absorption can be achieved. Further, as the shape of the holding rail 16 is partially fitted to the outline of the body pillar 2, the holding rail 16 is simply positioned and fixed to the body pillar 2 together with the energy absorbent element 14.

2. Japanese Patent Application No. JP 7 228201 published August 29, 1995 discloses: Energy is absorbed by a pillar garnish 16 for covering a pillar 14 by being arranged at some interval from the inner panel 12 of the pillar 14 formed by an outer panel 10 and the inner panel 12 to the inside in a car body width direction. The pillar garnish 16 is provided with a front part 17A extended toward a front flange 13A and a rear part 17B extended toward a rear flange 13B. The pillar garnish 16 is also provided with slant surfaces 23, 25 for opening the front part 17A to a front side and the rear part 17B to a rear side without hitting the front part 17A and the rear part 17B to the front/rear flanges 13A, 13B, when a load orientated outward in the lateral direction of a car body and more than a prescribed value is applied to the pillar garnish 16.

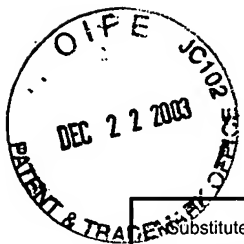
Respectfully submitted,



Craig Metcalf  
Reg. No. 31,398  
Attorney for Applicants

Date: December 18, 2003

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PTO/SB/08A (05-03)

Approved for use through 5/31/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)  Sheet 1 of 1		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/658,681
		Filing Date	September 9, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Travis Hess
		Group Art Unit	3612
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	14262

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	U1	US-6,467,834	10/22/2002	Barz et al.	
	U2	US-6,394,536	05/28/2002	Takahara	
	U3	US-6,254,172	07/03/2001	Takahara	
	U4	US-6,145,908	11/14/2000	Deb et al.	
	U5	US-5,884,962	03/23/1999	Mattingly et al.	
	U6	US-5,729,463	03/17/1998	Koenig et al.	
	U7	US-5,720,510	02/24/1998	Daniel et al.	
	U8	US-5,609,385	03/11/1997	Daniel et al.	
	U9	US-5,544,933	08/13/1996	Shahab et al.	
	U10	US-2002/0145298	10/10/2002	Williams et al.	
	U11	US-2002/0057003	05/16/2002	Yoshida et al.	
	U12	US-2001/0008915	07/19/2001	Hirata et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	F1	JP - 11-123993	05/11/1999	DR Ing H C F Porsche AG		
	F2	JP - 7 228 201	08/29/1995	Toyota Motor Corp.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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